

Art in New York City in 1870. Some of these Hudson River School painters later served as trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and were members of the executive committee.

On this very floor many years ago, Congress was moved to create several national parks, like Yellowstone and Yosemite, after viewing the School's magnificent landscape paintings. Eventually, these same paintings were used to encourage Congress to form the National Park Service in 1916.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues, and the American people, can agree with me when I acknowledge and appreciate the achievements of Asher Durand, George Inness, and the Hudson River School of Painters.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,054,163,621,371.29. We've added \$10,252,758,446,077.01 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended the funeral of a fallen soldier from my district and missed the following roll-call Votes: Nos. 860, 861, and 862 on November 29, 2011.

If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 860—H.R. 3012, Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, "nay;"

Rollcall Vote No. 861—H.R. 2192, National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act, "aye;" and

Rollcall Vote No. 862—H.R. 1801, Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act, "aye."

#### A TRIBUTE TO MR. ANDREA BOCELLI

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many around the world in celebrating the accomplishments, talents, and music of Andrea Bocelli. Our Nation's Capital will play host to the Italian tenor on Friday, December 2nd when he takes the stage at the Verizon Center.

Born on September 22, 1958 in Pisa, Toscana, Italy, it wasn't until Mr. Bocelli was

34 when he was discovered for his incredible talents. In short time, with the support of legend Luciano Pavarotti, Mr. Bocelli won many competitions, festivals, and a record deal. His many talents include musician, songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist playing keyboards, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, harp, harmonica, guitar, drums, and melodic.

The best selling solo artist in the history of classical music, Mr. Bocelli has recorded thirteen solo albums and eight operas, selling over 70 million copies across the globe. He has sung for presidents, popes, queens and millions of fans.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bocelli has served as a cultural ambassador for the Italian people. He continues to represent and promote the talents of Italy. Among his many accolades, he was honored with the status of "Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" from past President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Here in the United States his honors include a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in appreciation of Mr. Andrea Bocelli, and thank him for his contribution to music, the arts, and popular culture.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, due to inclement weather in Chicago, Illinois that prevented my travel, I was unable to cast my votes for rollcall Nos. 860, 861, and 862. I was originally booked on United Flight 5327 from Moline at 9:24 a.m. (CST), connecting to United Flight 610 leaving O'Hare at 11:04 a.m. (CST) and arriving in DCA at 1:53 p.m. (EST). However, I could not make these flights due to my original flight from Moline not getting into ORD until 2:43 p.m., and subsequently having 3 connecting flights being cancelled, forcing me to get on the 6:30 p.m. (CST) United 509, arriving in DCA at 10:20 p.m. (EST).

Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows:

For rollcall No. 860, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea." This legislation would not increase the total yearly admission numbers, but it would increase the United States' competitiveness and contribute to growing our economy.

For rollcall No. 861, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, I would have voted "yea." The brave men and women of our reserve components and National Guard, and their families, make incredible sacrifices so that we can be free.

Many are called to duty unexpectedly which can hinder financial planning and place a burden on their families. This exemption should be extended to allow our citizen-warriors time to readjust when they return home.

For rollcall No. 862, which directs the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration [TSA]) to develop and implement a plan for expedited security screening services for uniformed Armed Forces members, and their families, traveling on official orders while in uniform through an airport, I would have voted "yea." Again, we owe the brave men and women of our armed forces a tremendous debt of gratitude. Finding a faster way for them to complete the security screening process while they are in uniform and traveling on official orders is common sense.

It is an honor to serve the people of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois.

#### ON THE BIRTH OF ANGELO ZOLTAN SCHWARTZ

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Lawrence Schwartz and his wife Allison on the birth of their new baby boy, Angelo Zoltan Schwartz, who was born on Monday, November 28, 2011, in Falls Church, Virginia.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Schwartz family and wish them all the best. I want to also congratulate Angelo's grandparents Debra and Barry Shulman of Fayetteville, New York, and Joanne and Lawrence Schwartz, III of Anaheim Hills, California, on this wonderful new addition to their family.

#### TRIBUTE TO HAROLD "HAL" BRUNO, JR.

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of a truly outstanding individual, Mr. Harold "Hal" Bruno, Jr., who passed away on November 8th, 2011 at the age of 83. A native of Chicago, Hal Bruno began his long career there as a reporter during the 1950s. From 1960 to 1978, Mr. Bruno worked for Newsweek magazine, and in 1978, he moved to ABC news where he remained until 1999. As Political Director and Director of Election Coverage at ABC News, Hal Bruno was widely known for his political savvy and his journalistic integrity. His career as a journalist spanned five decades and earned him many accolades. He was dedicated to politics and a pioneer in political journalism, so it is fitting that he passed away on an election night.

However, Hal Bruno had another passion in addition to journalism: to the brave men and women of our country's fire service. He was called to serve his neighbors as a volunteer firefighter for much of his career, and through that work as a firefighter, Mr. Bruno gained a keen interest in fire safety policies. He became a leading expert in the politics and policy of fire safety and for years contributed a